

San Francisco Bay Area Planning Director's Association

June 11, 1971

Mr. Joseph E. Bodovitz
Executive Director
San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California

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Dear Joe

The Bay Area Planning Director's Association has reviewed a number of regional planning programs, either proposed or presently under way, in the San Francisco Bay Region and has noted with concern, as I know you do, the apparent lack of coordination between them. As a result of this concern, the Association has adopted the attached policy statement. This statement is transmitted to you largely for information, for I know you are as concerned with this problem as we are. However, I think the Commission would be interested in it, so we would appreciate your bringing it to the attention of the Commission for its information.

Naturally, we would appreciate any comments on the policy statement that you care to offer. The Planning Director's Association will continue working toward improved regional coordination, and in this connection we will look forward to continuing close contact with your office.

Sincerely,

Bill Rugg
W. R. Rugg, Chairman
Bay Area Planning Director's Association

WRR:sm

Attachment

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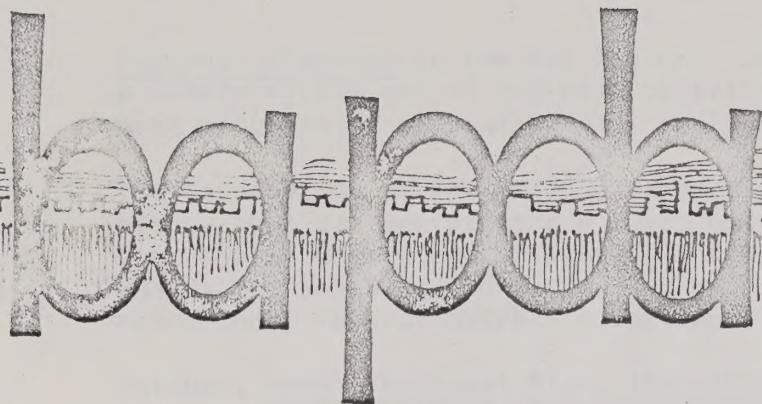
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San Francisco Bay Area Planning Director's Association

June 1, 1971

POLICY POSITION ON REGIONAL PLANNING COORDINATION

The San Francisco Bay Area Planning Directors' Association has as one of its primary objectives the encouragement of improved coordination between the various regional planning efforts taking place in the Bay Area. At the present time, many area-wide planning programs are being conducted by separate special-purpose agencies in the absence of a coordinative planning framework, or even close-working relationships.

The basic purpose in such coordination is to achieve comprehensiveness, that is, a proper relationship between a great number of planning elements that should relate to each other.

Many excellent regional planning programs are, in reality, parts of a regional plan being prepared by separate, special-purpose agencies. However, unless these plan elements include thorough consideration of all related elements of regional development, they may be uneconomical, short-sighted, or even counter-productive.

The basic element of regional planning is a common data base and common planning objectives and assumptions consisting of a simple land use and population distribution plan. Without a common land use and population distribution plan, it is not possible to develop completely logical and rational special-purpose plans such as a transportation plan element, an open space plan element, a liquid waste reclamation and treatment plan element, a water resources management plan element, or a water-borne commerce plan element, to name just a few. Yet the development of techniques for achieving close coordination between all of these plan elements by their parent agencies is still in its infancy.

The Planning Directors' Association has adopted the following statement of policy to assist in the improvement of the effectiveness of regional coordination:

1. A Coordinative Regional Planning Agency

Basic to the development of a coordinated regional planning program is the existence of one regional agency with the responsibility for comprehensive

regional planning in the Bay Region. Such an agency must (1) establish a comprehensive set of regional objectives, and (2) coordinate the planning programs of special-purpose regional agencies.

The Association of Bay Area Governments is presently the only regional agency that can perform these functions. As the agency designated by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development as the planning agency for the nine-county Bay Region, ABAG has broad coordinative obligations under Federal HUD/EPA guidelines.

Further, ABAG's Regional Plan, 1970-1990, is the only comprehensive regional plan approved by a representative cross section of policy makers within the Region. This plan contains the only generally accepted set of comprehensive regional objectives available to date.

In that ABAG is the only regional agency that can perform this vital coordinative function, it is the position of this Association that it should do so with vigor, and that it deserves the full cooperation of all agencies, local and regional, toward that end.

2. Coordinative Planning

Preparation of specialized plan elements requires common data inputs such as population and economic growth statistics. It is in the interest of plan coordination that all specialized plan elements use a common data base.

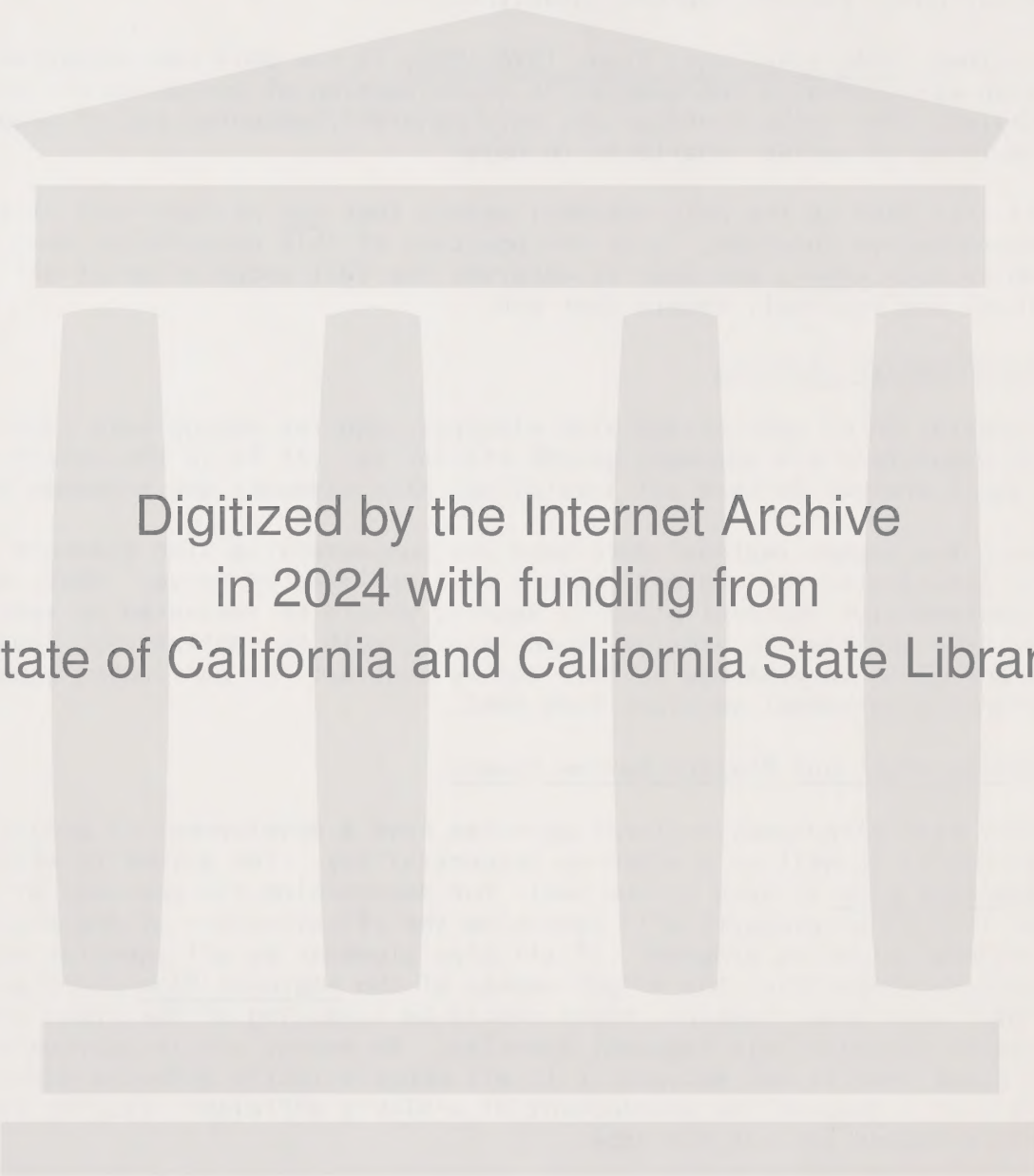
Both the common regional data base and comprehensive plan elements should be provided by the regional agency best equipped to do so. ABAG, as the comprehensive regional planning agency, should be requested by special-purpose agencies to provide these inputs, both by contract for specific work elements to be produced by ABAG and by contract for continuing coordinative planning personnel services from ABAG.

3. Shared Grant and Project Review Powers

Many special-purpose regional agencies have a development or project review authority as well as a planning responsibility. The extent to which the Regional Plan is used as the basis for determining the approval or rejection of individual projects will determine the effectiveness of the comprehensive regional planning program. If all plan elements by all agencies were completely compatible, the effectiveness of the Regional Plan would be assured. Until that time, however, there should be a sharing of the grant and project review powers of all regional agencies. No agency should approve a grant or project that is not acceptable to all other directly affected agencies. This will require the development of a highly efficient referral system to avoid delays and cut red tape.

4. Focusing Local Input

All regional studies should include local policy inputs. Views of local public agencies should be focused primarily through ABAG, as well as directly to a special-purpose agency without ABAG involvement. ABAG should accept the responsibility for both seeking and focusing local input for regional studies conducted by special-purpose agencies. Those agencies should provide a meaningful role for this function of ABAG in their program designs.



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5. Sharing Decision-Making Powers

All plans eventually must be approved at the policy level if they are to be useful. Historically, plans by special-purpose agencies have been approved only by those agencies, with little sharing of the decision-making process with other affected agencies. With the increasing importance of insuring the compatibility of the plans of all agencies, the need to share the decision-making process in those plans has become more evident. Differences in the plan must be resolved through the process of shared decision-making.

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